

the cremastral hooks. Pupal stage 2 - 3 weeks up to 10 - 11 months. *Foodplant*. *Tapinanthus* sp. (Loranthaceae). Restricted to the Tsumeb area of Namibia.

Habits. An inhabitant of dry woodland where the dominant trees are *Combretum* and *Commiphora* species. The males ascend to the summits of hills in the early afternoon where they establish territories and chase off intruding males. They perch on prominent leaves or twigs at the top of some tall shrub, thence taking short fast jerky flights, often returning to the same perch. The females are usually found at the bottom of the hills where they search for suitable foodplant on which to oviposit.

Distribution. Only recorded from the Tsumeb/Grootfontein area of Namibia.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere thanks go to our father Mr W.H. Henning and to Mr H.C. Ficq.

References

- Clark, C.G. & Dickson, C.G.C., 1971. *Life Histories of the South African Lycaenid Butterflies*. Purnell, Cape Town.
- Stempfer, H. & Bennett, N., 1958. Revision des genres appartenant au groupe des *Iolaus* (Lep.: Lycaenidae). *Bulletin de l'Ifan* XX: 1244-1347.

The Small Eggar *Eriogaster lanestris* Linnaeus in Wiltshire in 1990.

Almost annually over the last ten years or so my brother at Steeple Ashton in Wiltshire has found very small numbers of *E. lanestris* in his light trap. In addition in this general area of Wiltshire I have found the larval nests, again almost annually and mostly only one or two. However, this has to be qualified by saying that I have never deliberately looked for nests but simply discovered them in the course of other field work. What has seemed extraordinary to me is that until 1990 in spite of working the same areas for other purposes I had not discovered a larval nest anywhere within at least a quarter of a mile of its predecessors so that I was in the situation that having found a larval nest the knowledge of its whereabouts was of no use in finding nests the following year.

The spring of 1990 was most congenial for the emergence of early species in this area and in due course I noted three larval nests of *E. lanestris* within about as many feet of hedgerow, no doubt the product of one female. Considering this is a red data species I was rather surprised that in the space of about a week and without actually searching, to have noticed over thirty nests in widely scattered localities in this general area of West Wilts. All of the nests were noted on hedgerows which had been trimmed in either of the

two previous autumns, in fact over the past decade I can think of only two nests that were on untrimmed hedgerows. The majority of the nests were on roadside hedgerows but in areas closer to home or work where I had access to non-roadside hedgerows and undertook my other fieldwork I noted other nests so that distribution was not necessarily limited to roadside habitat. In the course of my farm work during this spell, by a lucky chance, and not thinking about *E. lanestris* at that moment as lunch was imminent, I had a lift back home on the top of a trailer, and from this high vantage point I suddenly realised that I was able to look down on the top of a hedgerow that I knew had in a space of about 300 yards five larval nests on the sides of the hedge. From this viewpoint I added another five nests which were so placed in the top of the hedgerow that they were almost invisible from the normal position of someone searching at ground level — in fact, so much so that later in the day a search for those five nests resulted in only one nest that was fairly easily detectable, the remaining four needing a considerable search to locate them, and I knew exactly where to look! There might be a lesson to be learned here of *E. lanestris*' habits.

The distribution of larval nests seems to follow rather closely the distribution of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) which appears to be the preferred pabulum in this area. Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is also occasionally used and Elm (*Ulmus procera*) was noted once about five years ago.

I came across nests more or less anywhere in the Trowbridge/Westbury area and the surrounding villages, provided the habitat as described above was available. By the end of the larval season for *E. lanestris* I had lost count of the actual total but I knew that it was well in excess of 50 nests and mostly without really searching. The tractor driver on a large farm in the same locality who my brother has "educated" on the finer points of *E. lanestris* larvae and their habits, for the purpose of avoiding the destruction of nests during his farm work has become rather adroit in locating nests. He reported several additional nests from areas which I did not visit so that it is very likely that there were considerably more nests about than indicated in this note. With such an obvious increase it was somewhat ironical that only one imago — a male — was noted at my brother's light.— M.H. SMITH, 42 Bellefield Crescent, Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

Two noctuids probably new to Worcestershire.

The following two species of noctuids were taken at my m.v. light trap:

Hadena compta D. & S. (1). 28/29.vi.1988.

Lithophane leautieri hesperica Boursin (3), 12/13.x.1990.

The record of *H. compta* just predates that mentioned for Blackwell, Worcestershire in *Ent. Rec.* 101: 84. It must be significant that this first local record of *L. l. hesperica* should involve three individuals.— H.S. HEMSLEY-HALL, Orchard Drive, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs.